

as a research repository to promote law enforcement safety.

The memorial, the future museum, and this resolution will ensure that the heroism and sacrifice law enforcement officials make every day will be remembered and revered, so I would urge all Members to give support to this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY).

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER) for yielding the time to me.

Mr. Speaker, law enforcement officials from around the country have come in these last few days and today to Washington, D.C. to commemorate and honor fellow peace officers slain in the line of duty.

The National Peace Officers Memorial Day serves as a solemn reminder of the sacrifice and commitment to safety that police officers make on our behalf. The National Peace Officer Memorial Resolution, H.R. 116, which is cosponsored by 81 of my colleagues, expresses the gratitude of the House of Representatives for the work that these officers perform.

Law enforcement officers face unprecedented risks while protecting our communities and our freedoms. Today over 700,000 men and women place their lives at risk to serve as protectors of law and order.

Throughout U.S. history, more than 15,000 men and women serving as peace officers have sacrificed their life for their Nation and community. In the year 2000 alone, 151 Federal, State and local law enforcers gave their lives in the line of duty. To date, 54 have died in 2001; 3 of these 54 come from my home State of Colorado.

Law enforcement officers face enormous risks while protecting our neighborhoods, our families, our freedoms; yet there is often an attitude of indifference. Every community has been impacted by the work of officers, yet most citizens have little direct contact with peace officers. Therefore, the sacrifices of these brave Americans go unnoticed and often underappreciated.

Mr. Speaker, without the service of peace officers, our society is left unprotected. Law enforcement officers deserve to be recognized and honored for their work, their dedication, their sacrifice, and, yes, Mr. Speaker, their bravery in defense of our society.

I hope my colleagues will join me in expressing our appreciation to all peace officers and paying tribute to those slain in the line of duty and to their surviving families by supporting H. Res. 116.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), one who knows exactly what it means and what it is like to be a law enforcement official himself.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for yielding the time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support this resolution in honor of law enforcement officers who were killed or disabled in the line of duty. I want to thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) for sponsoring this important legislation and to all of those who cosponsored it to make it a reality here today.

Before coming to Congress in 1993, I served as a police officer for 12 years, both as a city police officer and as a Michigan State trooper. I have known personally too many officers who have been disabled or who have given their lives for the people they serve.

Each of us today understand the importance of the House of Representatives in undertaking this resolution to honor law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. In this past year it has been 151 men and women.

We do not forget those officers who died in previous years. Mr. Speaker, in my case, I specifically think back about the funerals and where I was honor guard for the funerals of Darrell Rantanen of the Gladstone Post back in about 1974, or Craig Scott of the Lansing Post who died in 1983. Those officers died doing their job just like law enforcement officials do day in, day out.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, probably each one of us can name an officer that was killed in the line of duty either in our home districts or even here in the Capitol, which happened in 1998 with the deaths of Capitol Police Officers Chestnut and Gibson.

We do not forget the extreme sacrifice our Nation's law enforcement and public safety officers make to our communities and to the Nation every day.

This legislation, as simple as it is, recognizes the very important value our government places on the work of the men and women who serve us each day. It is important that we take this step this week to show our respect and recognition for the jobs that police officers do every day, in every town, in every township, and every county in America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in support of this resolution. It is the least we can do for those who work with us and work for us every day in this great Nation.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would simply say that when one gives of themselves and gives of their life, they have given the best that they have had to give, and I would urge support for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the remarks of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) for

introducing this important piece of legislation and for his efforts to bring it to the floor and see it through its passage. I wanted to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), of the Committee on Government Reform, and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH), chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization, and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), ranking members, for working expeditiously for bringing this resolution to the floor.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me just remind everyone that it is our law enforcement officers that provide for the construction of the community, provide for its safety. They are, indeed, community builders. It reminds me of a poem that I learned many years ago, and I should like to offer it in closing, Mr. Speaker.

It goes like this: "I saw a group of men in my hometown. I saw a group of men tearing a building down. With a heave and a hoe and a mighty yell, they swung a beam, and a side wall fell. And I said to the foreman, 'Hey, are these men skilled, you know the kind that you'd hire if you wanted to build?' He said, 'Why no indeed. To tear down a building, common labor is all I need. With common labor, I can tear down in a day or two what it took a builder 10 years to do.' So I thought to myself as I walked away, which of these roles am I going to play."

Mr. Speaker, men and women in law enforcement and in uniform today that build our communities deserve the vote, and I urge the Members to provide their vote and their support.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution and join Americans across the country today in honoring those officers who have died or who were disabled in the line of duty. South Texans appreciate those men and women who walk that thin blue line every day.

As a former law enforcement officer, I have an intimate understanding of situations that can turn dangerous or deadly in a moment. The men and women who police our communities walk that line that separates the good guys from the bad guys. The work we ask our police officers to do is dangerous, dirty duty.

What people do not understand very often is that it is the inherent risk of what we might have to do that makes law enforcement so dangerous. We see the best and worst of our fellow human beings. It is not our job to judge them. That task is reserved judge and jury. Our job is merely to treat everyone equally.

Enforcing the law is a hard job. When people do something wrong, their first instinct is to find fault with the person who catches them. So being the guardian of our laws is never a simple endeavor. But in the end, it is the enormous satisfaction of protecting our neighborhoods and families that makes walking that line worth all the danger and criticism. It is the laughter of safe children, or the gratitude of someone whose life or property we protect, that makes doing this job enormously satisfying.

There are several South Texans who will be honored this week. Officers who made the supreme sacrifice include: Enrique L. Carrizalez,